(d) whether it is also a fact that according to the administrative procedures, stipulated by the Monitoring Agency viz. the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi 'the permit-licence-quota raj' is far from oven and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantitative ceilings for the export of these items are notified on an annual basis on the recommendations of the concerned Administrative Ministries. Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate for export of these items is issued by APEDA as prescribed in the current policy.

(c) No, Sir. No complaints have been received in this Office against Public Notice No. 21 dated 19-5-1993.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Administrative procedures stipulated by the Monitoring Agency viz. the APEDA are in accordance with spirit of liberalisation of the Trade Policy. No licence is required for the export of these items. The administrative procedures stipulated by the Monitoring Agency are only to ensure free and equitable distribution and a proper utilization of the ceilings released.

Threat of Pak Missile Capabilities

*76. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO scientists have reently made an assessment of Pakistan's missile capabilities;

(b) if so, what is the extent of threat posed by Pakistan's missile capability; and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government are aware of the assessment of Pakistan's missile capability carried out by Mr. S. Chandrasekhar of ISRO. This was the technical analysis of an individual scientist which he had published in his individual capacity.

(b) and (c) Proliferation of ballistic missiles in India's neighbourhood is a matter of serious concern. Government keep a close watch on all such developments which have a bearing on our national security, and take appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness and to meet the emerging challenges.

French Fuel for Taps

*77. SHRl RAMDAS AGARWAL
:
SHRI BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether French Government has finally decided to stop the fuel supply for Tarapur Atomic Power Station:

(b) if so, what are" the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the fuel requirement for Tarapur Atomic Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI); (a) and (b) France has already supplied the Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) committed by them for Thrapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) under a contract concluded in 1983 for a period of 10 years. As for future supply of LEU for TAPS by France, they had indicated to us, sometime back, that it would be on the condition of India accepting full scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards. The Government's present policy is not to accept full scope Safeguards.

(c) In the absence of LEU, TAPS could be operated on Mixed Uranium-Plutonium (MOX) fuel for which the technology has been developed indigenously. It is also possible to consider operating TAPS using indigenously produced LEU, for which the requisite technology is available.

Villages without Drinking Water Facilities

*78. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent survey according to which 30,000 villages in the country are without single source of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States where these are located; and

(c) by when these are likely to be provided with drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) All States/Union Territories were requested to carry out a fresh survey of status of drinking water in rural habitations. The results of the survey are still awited as the data is processed and computerised. Details of the newly identified 'no source' villages/habitations will become available after the final results of the survey are made available.

(c) All uncovered/partially covered habitations are likely to be provided safe drinking water facilities by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Ranking of Air India amongst International Airlines

*79. SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Air India has been placed as one of the lowest ranking international airlines in the world;

(b) if so, whether any study has been ordered to probe into the reasons which made Air India to loose its image abroad; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take to set things right ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) An agency named In-Flight Research Services of London recently conducted a survey of the product and services in the First class of 31 airlines and the ranking given to Air India by this agency was 31. Air India has reported that it was approached by this agency in October, 1992 to participate in an airline survey seeking a financial contribution which Air India had declined. While a conclusion on the results of the survey can objectively be drawn after receipt of details which are awaited by Air India, Government have asked Air India to intensify efforts to improve its services to passengers on ground and upgrade the quality of its in-flight services.

Sick Industrial Units in Bihar

*80. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of small scale industries in Bihar are sick and need to be revived; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to revive these sick industrial units in Bihar and elsewhere in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. according to the Reserve Bank of India as atthee^d of March, 1992, the number of sick small .scale industrial units in Bihar was 7,823, out of which only 368 units have been found as potentially viable.

(b) Small scale industrial units become sick for variety of reasons. Important reasons are listed below:—

—Managerial
—Technological
—Marketing
—Infra-structural
—Financial

Both Central and State Government take measures for revival of sick units. These are as under:—

(1) To take care of the managerial problems. Government run training programmes for entrepreneurship development; organise workshops, hold clinics, etc

(2) To take care of the technological problems. Government has been providing inspection of the units by technical officers, workshop facilities through SISIs, testing facilities and other technical guidance and assistance through Regional Testing Centres, Tool Rooms and Product-cum-Process Development Centres.

(3) To take care of the marketing problem. Central Government provides marketing support though price preference, purchase preference in the Government Purchase Programme, marketing support through National Small Industries Corporation. State Governments provide marketing support through State Small Industries Development Corporation.

(4) Provision of infrastructural support is the responsibility of the State Governments